Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 /053 W -------070613 151647Z /47

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4877
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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: REINFORCED EWG MEETING

JULY 15

REF: STATE 162516 (DTG 130124ZJUL77)

- 1. IN A VERY PRODUCTIVE WORKING SESSION JULY 15, ABLY LED BY ASYG (PLANS AND POLICY) MUMFORD, THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG), WHOSE MEMBERSHIP WAS REINFORCED BY SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS, APPROVED THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR THE NINE NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES TASK FORCES.
- 2. AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN, THE EWG AGREED THAT, WHERE CONSENSUS IN PRINCIPLE WAS POSSIBLE ON REQUESTED CHANGES TO THE TOR, IT WOULD LEAVE THE DETAILED WORDING TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE SECRETARIAT AND THE TASK FORCE DIRECTORS. THE US REPRESENTATIVE (KOMER) SAID THAT THE US WOULD NOT, AT THIS MEETING, INSIST ON APPROVAL OR EVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ON DISCUSSION OF ITS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED PROPOSED CHANGES (REFTEL). HOWEVER, HE REQUESTED AND RECEIVED EWG AGREEMENT THAT TASK FORCE DIRECTORS SHOULD TAKE THE US PROPOSED CHANGES APPROPRIATELY INTO ACCOUNT WHEN REVISING THEIR TOR.

3. OVERWHELMINGLY, NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND REPRE-

SENTATIVES OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES EXPRESSED CONCURRENCE WITH THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE TOR. WHERE CHANGES WERE PROPOSED THEY WERE RELATIVELY MINOR, AND, FOR THE MOST PART, HELPFUL TO THE TASK FORCE DIRECTORS. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT: (1) THE PROGRAMS PROPOSED BY THE TASK FORCES SHOULD BE STRUCTURED FOR BOTH THE MID-TERM (TO 1984) AND THE LONG-TERM (1985 AND BEYOND); (2) TASK FORCE DIRECTORS WOULD ESTABLISH PRIORITIES IN ORDER FOR THE EWG AND NATIONS TO DECIDE REALISTICALLY ON THE DESIRABILITY OF TRADEOFFS WITHIN RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS; (3) MAXIMUM USE OF EXISTING STUDIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO THE WORK OF TASK FORCES BECAUSE THERE WAS NEITHER SUFFICIENT TIME NOR JUSTIFICATION FOR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT TO DO OTHERWISE; AND (4) TASK FORCE DIRECTORS WOULD LIAISE WITH ONE ANOTHER TO ENSURE THAT, WHERE THERE WAS POTENTIAL FOR OVERLAP, IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD WHICH TASK FORCE HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY.

4. A DETAILED REPORT WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am

Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009

Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO06839
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: RR Errors: N/A **Expiration:** Film Number: n/a Format: TEL

From: NATO Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770751/aaaabrmo.tel

Line Count: 81 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes: Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Message ID: 7f2dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 STATE 162516 (DTG 130124ZJUL77)

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1842396 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: REINFORCED EWG MEETING JULY 15

TAGS: MPOL, NATO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC WASHDC

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7f2dc06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009